

I. AMENDMENT

Please amend claim 1 as follows. Please add new claims 113-137, and please cancel pending claims 2-5, 8-14, 19-29 and 101 –112, without prejudice. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A core-spun yarn comprising a plurality of continuous conductive fibers, together with a plurality of staple fibers chosen from the group consisting of ~~non-metallic, non-carbonized~~ conductive staple fibers, quasi-conductive staple fibers and mixtures of non-metallic, non-carbonized conductive and quasi-conductive staple fibers, the fibers from this group making up at least about 35 percent by weight of the staple fibers in the yarn.

2 – 29. (Cancelled)

30-100. (Withdrawn)

101 – 112. (Cancelled)

113. (New) A yarn comprising a combination of (i) a plurality of continuous fibers; and (ii) a plurality of staple fibers chosen from the group consisting of conductive staple fibers, quasi-conductive staple fibers and mixtures of conductive and quasi-conductive staple fibers, the fibers from this group making up at least about 35 percent by weight of all the staple fibers in the yarn.

114. (New) The yarn of claim 113, wherein the plurality of continuous fibers comprises at least some conductive fibers.

115. (New) The yarn of claim 113, wherein the plurality of continuous fibers forms a core that is at least in part surrounded by a sheath comprising the plurality of stable fibers.

116. (New) The yarn of claim 115, wherein the plurality of staple fibers comprises at least some conductive staple fibers.

117. (New) The yarn of claim 116, wherein the individual conductive staple fibers have a DC resistivity less than about 10^9 ohms per centimeter.

118. (New) The yarn of claim 116, wherein at least some of the conductive staple fibers comprise carbon-loaded polymer.

119. (New) The yarn of claim 116, wherein at least some of the conductive staple fibers comprise polymer loaded with antimony-doped tin oxide.

120. (New) The yarn of claim 116, wherein at least some of the conductive staple fibers comprise non-conductive polymer and are solution-coated with one or more electrically-conductive polymers.

121. (New) The yarn of claim 116, wherein at least some of the conductive staple fibers comprise inherently-conductive polymer.

122. (New) The yarn of claim 116, wherein at least some of the conductive staple fibers are bicomponent staple fibers.

123. (New) The yarn of claim 112, wherein the individual bicomponent staple fibers each comprise

a first longitudinally-extending constituent formed of at least one fiber-forming non-conductive polymer; and

a second longitudinally-extending constituent formed of at least one conductive material, wherein the second longitudinally-extending constituent is in longitudinal contact with the surface of the first longitudinally-extending constituent.

124. (New) The yarn of claim 123, wherein the second longitudinally-extending constituent comprises conductive polymer.

125. (New) The yarn of claim 124, wherein the first longitudinally-extending constituent forms a core of the fiber and the second longitudinally-extending constituent forms a sheath around at least part of the circumference of the core.

126. (New) The yarn of claim 125, wherein the second longitudinally-extending constituent forms a sheath around the entire circumference of the core.

127. (New) The yarn of claim 126, wherein said bicomponent conductive staple fibers make up at least about 50 percent by weight of all the staple fibers in the yarn.

128. (New) The yarn of claim 126, wherein said bicomponent conductive staple fibers make up substantially 100 percent of all the staple fibers in the yarn.

129. (New) The yarn of claim 124, wherein the second longitudinally-extending constituent is in the form of at least one longitudinal stripe on the surface of the first longitudinally-extending constituent.

130. (New) The yarn of claim 129, wherein said bicomponent conductive staple fibers make up at least about 50 percent by weight of all the staple fibers in the yarn.

131. (New) The yarn of claim 129, wherein said bicomponent conductive staple fibers make up substantially 100 percent of all the staple fibers in the yarn.

132. (New) The yarn of claim 115, wherein the plurality of staple fibers comprises at least some quasi-conductive staple fibers.

133. (New) The yarn of claim 132, wherein at least some of the quasi-conductive staple fibers are bicomponent staple fibers.

134. (New) The yarn of claim 133, wherein the individual bicomponent staple fibers each comprise

a first longitudinally-extending constituent formed of at least one fiber-forming non-conductive polymer; and

a second longitudinally-extending constituent formed of at least one conductive material, wherein the second longitudinally-extending constituent is in longitudinal contact with the surface of the first longitudinally-extending constituent.

133. (New) The yarn of claim 132, wherein the second longitudinally-extending constituent comprises conductive polymer.

134. (New) The yarn of claim 133, wherein the second longitudinally-extending constituent forms a core of the fiber and the first longitudinally-extending constituent forms a sheath around at least part of the circumference of the core.

135. (New) The yarn of claim 134, wherein the first longitudinally-extending constituent forms a sheath around the entire circumference of the core.

136. (New) The yarn of claim 135, wherein said bicomponent quasi-conductive staple fibers make up at least about 50 percent by weight of all the staple fibers in the yarn.

137. (New) The yarn of claim 135, wherein said bicomponent quasi-conductive staple fibers make up substantially 100 percent of all the staple fibers in the yarn.

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

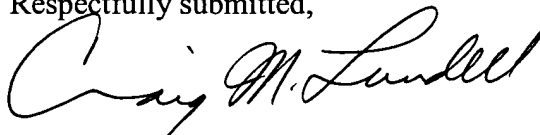
Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-5, 8-14, 19-29 and 101 –112 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 113 - 137 have been added. Newly presented independent claim 113 shares certain common subject matter with previously presented claim 1. Newly presented dependent claims 116 – 137 roughly correspond to certain of applicant's originally presented dependent claims. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and for the new claims may be found throughout the present application, including on page 9, line 19 – page 10, line 20; page 11, lines 23-30; page 13, line 17 – page 16, line 17.

Previously-presented claim 1 and new claims 113 – 137 are now pending.

The previous claim rejections are believed to have been overcome by Applicants' amendment to claim 1. Similarly, new claims 113-137 recite incorporate additional subject matter. In view of the foregoing, the currently pending claims are believed to be allowable.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 787-1415 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 25, 2004